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# The Harvard Crimson



*The University Daily Since 1873*

## CIA and the K-School

# An Imperfect Union

THE CIA and the K-School are two very different institutions with one thing in common. Although both were founded with noble aims in mind, both have since been sullied by wrongful actions incompatible with their initial missions. This is not to compare the murders of foreign heads of state and overthrow of regimes with the too often too cozy relationship between the K-School, Big Game and the Diners. But it is cause for concern that the CIA and K-School link up, as it was no need last week they would under the spices of a new program to be funded by the agency and administered by the K-School.

This relationship raises questions not only because ties between secretive government agencies and academia are inherently troubling, but also because this union is between organizations with checkered pasts. Harvard and the Kennedy School should not have forgotten their liberal natures once again by making an institutional link with a body as reprehensible as the CIA. Under the terms of the agreement, the CIA will fund a \$1.2 million, three-year Kennedy School study assessing the use to which policymakers put the agency's intelligence information. The funding also will pay for special two-week "executive training sessions," presumably modeled after other "executive training sessions" for government officials ranging from bureaucrats in the Education Department to Air Force colonels, that the K-School will hold once a year for senior CIA analysts.

After the deception and secrecy surrounding CIA funding of research projects by Harvard professors Nadav Safran and Samuel P. Huntington, the unprecedented openness of the

new program would seem to justify a suspension of the skepticism that should accompany activities involving the CIA. The CIA is acknowledging itself as the source of funding for a study and has agreed to let the results be published. But by that action the CIA meets only the bare minimum of requirements necessary for any liberal institution.

Doubts must still linger. A CIA analyst will be part of the K-School research team, and his role is as yet undefined. How will he aid such eminent scholars as Professors Richard Neustadt, Ernest May and Gregory Trevorton? Given the inherent tension between a highly secretive, intelligence-gathering branch of the government and a private research institution, the role of this analyst needs to be spelled out so as to prevent abuses of academic freedom that might benefit only the CIA.

The greatest concern must be expressed over the implications of an institutional link between the CIA and Harvard. The CIA, with its secretive nature and its history of undermining the foreign policy aims of our nation's elected representatives—as well as basic international law—should not receive the legitimacy of associating itself with one of the world's leading institutions of liberal education. The recent Iran-contra affair patently showed how the CIA can corrupt U.S. foreign policy.

Harvard most likely could get the money elsewhere if this study is worthwhile. According to spokesmen, the CIA is not giving the researchers any special access. It is unfortunate that the University in its efforts to achieve a small victory for openness linked itself with a body that in its penchant for secrecy has corrupted its noble aim of helping to advance the interests of democracy.

## DISSENT

THE MAJORITY opinion is grounded in paranoia about the CIA and ignorance of the agency's history. There are only two ways to object to the CIA-sponsored Kennedy School study. One may argue that the CIA is some kind of an inherently immoral organization—whatever that means—with which Harvard should have no ties. Or one can assert that the University should have no links with the CIA merely because it is an active government agency. The majority opinion wavers between the two arguments, both of which are superficial and don't withstand minimal scrutiny.

Unless one believes that gentlemen shouldn't open each other's mail, it's meaningless to assert that the CIA intrinsically is an immoral body. America, like any other country, needs to gather information about other nations and train analysts to assess the collected data. It's that simple.

And that, simply, is all that the CIA is supposed to do. To call the CIA a "reprehensible" body because of its "secretive" nature and "history of undermining the foreign policy aims of our nation's elected representatives as well as basic international law" is unsupported cant. No such examples are given because there are none to offer.

If the Iran-contra affair showed anything, it wasn't that the "CIA can corrupt U.S. foreign policy." It was that the CIA is a tool that can be misused by the officials who make U.S. foreign policy. To argue otherwise is to forget that our elected leaders control the agency, and that it is they who are responsible for its mistakes.

The other possible argument, that Harvard and its faculty should not be linked with the

CIA simply because it is a government agency, is equally facile. Such links are rampant all over the University. Incredibly, the majority implicitly asserts that it is morally permissible for the K-School to train Defense Department colonels to use nuclear weapons more "effectively" and not for some professors to assess how policy-makers utilize intelligence information.

But the majority cares little for basing its argument on facts or history. Take the conjecture that Harvard could find funding for its study elsewhere. Who says? And while we're asking questions, what does it mean to say Harvard and the Kennedy School have forgotten their "liberal nature"?

Finally, while the role of the CIA analyst who will be part of the research team of course must be greatly circumscribed, as it has been presented the project would seem unobjectionable. The CIA's task is to collect and analyze data and to help maintain American interests abroad. The K-School's mission is to study and help improve the operations of government. It would be foolish to maintain that the CIA has not acted objectionably in the past. But it has done so at the behest of leaders who failed to understand that America's interests abroad almost always fall with those on the side of "democracy." Professors Neustadt, May and Trevorton can only help the CIA do its job of advising America's leaders where the interests of democracy lie.

—Steven Lichtman  
—Brooke A. Masters  
—Michael D. Nolan  
—Gary D. Rowe  
—John C. Yoo

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Dec 8, 1987

## ***Students Fear for K-School Reputation***

By SUSAN B. GLASSER

Kennedy School students yesterday expressed reservations about the recently announced Kennedy School collaboration with the CIA and said that the project raises questions about the school's research priorities.

An informal survey of 20 students at the school revealed that many students are concerned about the implications of the \$1.2 million CIA project for the school's academic standards. Students also said that the collaboration is just another of a string of negative events which are plaguing the Kennedy School and damaging its reputation.

"All of the recent events have been negative, within a very tight time period," said Ginger Knox, a second-year student in the Master's of Public Policy (MPP) program. "But these events are just symptoms of the larger problems here, the system of priorities."

She said that the Kennedy School's

cooperation with the CIA may undermine the integrity of the study's results. "If you always get your [research] money from the same pool of dollars, then you expect them to determine some of its outcome," Knox said. "And you get a negative connotation from that."

The Kennedy School announced the CIA research project last week and billed it as an unprecedented stage in the CIA's relations with academia. The three-year project has been described as a major step forward for the CIA because the research will be made public and the intelligence agency will be identified as the funder of the project.

But Kennedy School students said that while the agreement may represent a step forward for the CIA, it raises questions about the school's academic standards.

"I'm not thrilled about the CIA  
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## *K-Schoolers Speak of Hurt Reputation*

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stuff," said Karen Kornbluh, a second-year MPP. "We're going to be encouraging a lot more defense-related research here, and I think that might be skewing the priorities."

Kornbluh, and several other students, said the Kennedy School's agreement with the CIA suggests that the school places undue weight on the value of defense-related research and close links with the government at the expense of less glamorous public policy issues.

"There is a lot of 'men and missiles' research that goes on here, but we need to see more human

resources-type stuff," Kornbluh said.

"I am very concerned about the [project] with the CIA—this thing will be used to fund more and more cases which have to do with international security," said Sheila K. Taber, a second-year MPP.

But other students said they thought the CIA-Kennedy School collaboration was a hallmark for the agency and that the Kennedy School would not suffer.

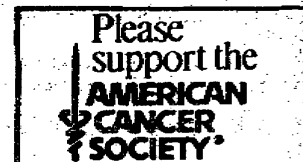
"In order for a Central Intelligence Agency-type organization to exist, it needs to gain access to the best people," said Adam Diamant, a first-year MPP student. By working with

the Kennedy School, the CIA is "on a sort of ethical high ground, and on that level I think it's pretty good," he said.

Diamant, who said he was unsure about his views on the program, added, "The one thing that is encouraging is that, by coming to Harvard, the agency doesn't seem to have a preconceived notion about what the research will turn up."

But Eric D. Fine, a Kennedy School student government officer and first-year student in the Master's of Public Administration (MPA) program, added a caveat to Diamant's endorsement of the CIA project.

He said that the CIA may end up having too much control over the research findings, because they funded the program. "I doubt that the study would be conducted without the money," Fine said. "But as a choice between study or no study, obviously I'd favor it."



# CIA Researcher Vows No Slant

## Analyst Speaks Out

By NOAM S. COHEN

The CIA analyst who will be working on an agency-sponsored project at the Kennedy School said yesterday that he will not use his influence as a research assistant to slant the study.

"You're just going to have to trust me," said William Kline, an Africa expert at the CIA.

In his first interview on the project, Kline said his agency background would be "helpful" to the school's \$1.2 million program, which will study the way foreign policy-makers use intelligence reports. Kline will be a research associate at the the K-school beginning this January, supported by a CIA salary.

"I am not going to slant the work," Kline said. "People [in government] are after the truth, that's the way the system works best."

Kline's role in the project has been a question-mark for a program that has been otherwise hailed as a  
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## CIA Analyst: No Bias

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breakthrough for CIA-university relations. In a break with tradition, the agency in this contract agreed to be named as the sponsor and to allow all results from the research to be made public.

On Friday, K-School Academic Dean Albert Carnesale said in an interview that "we have to be very careful with [Kline's] relation to the project."

Under the terms of the agreement, K-School faculty members Warren Professor of History Ernest May, Ford Professor of Government Richard Neustadt and K-School Lecturer Gregory Treverton, will hold two, week-long "executive training sessions" for senior CIA analysts.

In addition, May and Neustadt will use the grant to help prepare case studies about major U.S. foreign policy activities which will be used in the training sessions and later published. Kline will work on the case studies, perhaps writing one, said Associate Dean Peter Zimmerman.

Kline's stay at the K-School was not formally included in the contract that was hammered out over the summer, Zimmerman said. But according to Kline and others, the negotiations included discussions of hiring Kline.

In his first interview, Kline differed with a common characterization of the program by saying that he did not think the CIA would declassify many agency materials for the project. Administrators have indicated that the unprecedented access could likely lead to more materials about foreign policies in Iran, for example.

"I can't turn declassified materials lose," said the more than 20-year veteran of the agency.

"There really is enough [declassified materials] available at the level the K-School is working at," he said. "Look at Iran, there are scads of [detailed accounts] available you can work with."

Kline said, however, that he would have to be wary of writing about topics he worked on for the CIA because readers would think he would have an interest in the presentation.

He said that in such a case, people could think he either released material he should not have or wrote an account that made the agency look good. But he added that ultimately he cannot fight broader criticisms of his research.

"If people start out that everyone in government will write propaganda, then they should read it critically," he said.

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